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Reassuring and Alarming

How Our Spies Do Their Work

THE SUPER SPIES. By Andrew Tully. Morrow: 256 pp. \$5.95.

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Here is a book which is simultaneously reassuring and alarming. It's also thought-provoking.

Tully, a prolific Washington columnist and author, takes the uninformed reader for a behind-the-scenes peek at the nation's leading "spook agencies" — the outfits which collect intelligence, not only about Cold War enemies but about most nations everywhere.

The National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the intelligence branches of the armed services, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and others all come under review.

To the reader to whom these operations are new, the book is reassuring because it details many intelligence triumphs and gives at least a glimpse at electronic gadgets and other science-fiction devices which keep Washington informed on what is going on all over the world. At the same time, it does not overlook the old-fashioned spy.

Other Side

But it has its alarming side, too. For it indicates strongly that anything we can do in this field, the Soviet Union can do — and perhaps better. It touches, too, on American defectors and on foul-ups and bitter infighting among the overlapping spy agencies, often with disappointing results.

And, to say the least, it is thought-provoking. For Tully shows how vital it is for Washington to know what is going on elsewhere if it is to make informed policy decisions — especially where war or peace may be at issue.



Andrew Tully

... a wealth of material.

an eye and ear on him when he attended a Latin American Communist meeting in Havana a few years ago.

It is fascinating to read of intercepted radio messages between Hanoi and Havana, assessing Carmichael's value as a revolutionary in this country.

Intercepted Messages

It is interesting, too, to read of instructions to some Negro militants issued at that time to "use civil rights demonstrations and demonstrations against political injustice to build up their status as leaders with the Negro population."

Tully leaves the reader with the feeling this area was not delved into in his research as deeply as most others. Aside from that, he has condensed a wealth of unmined material into a comparatively short and well-worth-reading book.